

Chamber group does fine Mozart concert

By Avigdor Zoromp
special writer

During the one month recess of the regular Detroit Symphony Orchestra series, to resume March 5, Detroit Symphony Chamber Orchestra filled the gap.

Variety is an important element in any program. Normally, this is achieved by scheduling different composers and styles. But sometimes a single composer can provide plenty of variety. This is certainly the case with Mozart, who was the only composer featured on this program last weekend.

The three works were the Divertimento in D Major, K. 135, the Symphony No. 29 and the Serenade in D Major K. 250, titled the "Haffner Serenade." Iona Brown served as both conductor and violinist.

The opening short divertimento suffers from over-exposure. In fact, this work was performed here by the Salzburg Musici just a week earlier. But even without this particular coincidence, the many other local performances of this work suggest it be put to rest for while.

While I try to refrain from comparisons this is an exception. This performance, while having the notes and dynamics in place, sounded more mechanical and less elegant than the one by the Salzburg Musici.

I found the rest of the program rewarding, however. Brown, who is very prominent in her native

England and Europe as violinist and director, is a most capable musician. In the Divertimento and the symphony her role was more subtle, as she was performing sitting down, occupying first position. In the Serenade, she performed standing.

Outwardly the Symphony No. 29 has a small scale in terms of symphonic dimensions. However, its four short movements feature elegant, artistically pleasing form. This performance highlighted many of its delightful aspects. The short scope of this work is amply compensated by its musical quality, a fact that this performance made very clear.

The "Haffner" serenade is more symphonic in nature than most of Mozart's symphonies, including the "Haffner" symphony, which is an independent work.

The eight movements of this work make it as long as a Bruckner symphony but (at least in my opinion) far more eventful. Brown was alternating in her role as director, at which time she would play jointly with the ensemble, and that of soloist.

In that latter role, she was most impressive in the rondo movement, which is the center of gravity of this work. The variety of the music, combined with the high quality of the performance accounted for the fact that there was none of the boring, tedious feelings that many long works invariably generate.

As a whole, this program may be characterized as "well done" Mozart.

Kimono collection at Troy Art Gallery

By Corinne Abatt
staff writer

Vera Wolfe discovered a wonderful new world of beauty and excitement when she made her first trip to Japan in 1976 with a group from Detroit Institute of Arts. It was Kyoto, the cultural center, not the bustling, busy Tokyo that captured her heart. She has made the 28-hour trip by herself many times since, always staying in Kyoto at Tami House, which she describes as "a cut above a youth hostel."

Wolfe, 73, a well-known Michigan printmaker, studied with Emil Weddige when he gave classes at the Grosse Pointe War Memorial. Later she completed a master's in art at Wayne State University.

She doesn't pursue a formal course of study when she goes to Japan, and she doesn't buy prints. Instead she concentrates on observing artists in action, enjoying the scenery that she says is "incredible," visiting interesting places and collecting kimonos.

A selection of kimonos from her extensive collection will be in the show, "20th Century Japanese Prints and Kimonos," which opens Saturday at Troy Art Gallery. Wolfe will give a talk about the artistry of designing a Japanese kimono at 3 p.m. The public is invited free of charge to the 2-5:30 p.m. opening reception and to hear Wolfe's presentation.

Her collection began when she bought several while she was staying at the Imperial Hotel in Tokyo on her first trip because, "I wanted something of their design quality."

She said, "To me, Tokyo is New York with signs I can't read. I adore Kyoto, it's the cultural center, not the bustling, busy Tokyo that captured her heart. She has made the 28-hour trip by herself many times since, always staying in Kyoto at Tami House, which she describes as "a cut above a youth hostel."

She said few kimonos are seen in Tokyo, but they are prevalent in Kyoto where they are worn for formal occasions and tea ceremonies.

While none in her collection are new and she isn't certain they qualify as antiques, all are of fine silk, hand painted or block printed.

"In Kyoto," she said, "you have the center of the textile industry," consequently, a wonderful choice of texture and designs in kimonos.

She hopes to return again this year. April through June is her favorite time.

"I love the spring flowers. I'm growing bamboo and it's fabulous. And in the species of azalea they have, the flowers come out before the leaves and it's just a mass of color. I scout around and I find places to visit, various pottery makers and print-makers and last time I found a wonderful basket-maker and he gave me informal lessons."

Troy Art Gallery, 755 W. Big Beaver, Suite 131, Troy is open 11 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. Tuesday-Friday and until 4 p.m. Saturday.



Woodwind quintet to perform

The final program in the Detroit Symphony Preudes will be given Friday, March 6, at Temple Beth El of Bloomfield Township. Luncheon will be served at noon, and the music with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra Woodwind Quintet begins at 1:15 p.m. Three of the five members of the quintet

are Donald Baker (left), oboe; Paul Schaller, clarinet; and Robert Williams, bassoon. The others are Ervin Monroe, flute, and Eugene Wado, horn. All are principals with the DSO. For reservations, call Mrs. Eric Wiltshire, 338-2221, or Mrs. Edward Orsini, 644-6384.

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Chamberlain, REALTORS is pleased to announce the appointment of Charlene Clucas, Vice President - Sales Manager for our new West Bloomfield Office. Charlene is an Associate Broker and a former member of Merrill Lynch Realty's Leading Edge Society.

Charlene, husband Phil, and their two children, Tracy and Philip live in the Lakes Area. She has been very involved in community activities including her Lakes Association, member of the Zoning Board of Appeals, and recently served on the Board of Trustees for Commerce Township.

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